

## **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

### **Meeting of July 1, 2009**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

**Members Present:** Bill Strassberger (Chair); John J. Fausti, Esq.(Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Vanessa Ali; Kim Bobola, Ph.D.; Amjad M. Chaudhry, G. Stanley Doore; John J. Fausti, David M. Kochanski, Esq.; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Dwayne H. Parris; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Anthony Ramirez, Benoy Thomas.

**Members Absent:** Thomas J. Aylward; Marva R. Deskins, Esq; Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Odessa Shannon and John P. Thomas

**Staff:** Joy Nurmi, (Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center), Chuck Crisostomo (Asst. Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center)

**Guests:** Nesreen Khashan (Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau); Tamar Ruth (Asst. Principal, Greencastle Elementary school); Sharon Wilder (Cross Creek Club Representative); Iqbal Khan (Ahmadiyya Islamic Community member), Dolly Kildee (Staff, District 4 Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Alexis Reed (Staff, District 4 Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Claire Iseli (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan); Colleen Ionata (former ECCAB member and resident) and Robert Dongu (Gazette reporter)

**Citizen's Forum:** Chair Strassberger welcomed everyone.

**Guests** – gave a brief introduction.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

**Chair Strassberger** introduced Nesreen Khashan, Partnership Specialist of the US Census Bureau.

### **Speaker- Nesreen Khashan, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010**

Ms. Khashan thanked the Board and briefed the Board on the 2010 census and the importance that every person living in an area be counted as \$10,000 in federal funding is lost over the 10 year life of a census for every individual not counted. We need to make sure that the federal dollars are distributed correctly and that Montgomery County receives its share of federal funding. The US Census Bureau is forming partnerships with individuals and community groups to assist with reaching as many people as possible. These partners can assist with recruitment of Census workers, publicizing the census on websites and through contact lists. Ms. Khashan mentioned that she gave a US Census agreement to Bill Strassberger, Chair, ECCAB for Board

review and commitment. In 2000, which was the highest participation rate on record, participation was 67%.

The census questionnaire takes ten minutes to complete. Ms. Khashan noted they will be setting up offices in Rockville and in the District of Columbia and will be hiring 300-400 people to collect data. In March 2010, census forms will be mailed to residences. (No emails will be sent). If no reply is received by May 2010, census workers will be sent to those residences in order to personally collect the data. April 1, 2010 is going to be designated as Census Day and people will be asked to report their information wherever they are on that day.

The floor was opened for suggestions, questions and answers.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Strassberger asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of June 3, 2009.

Peter Myo Khin requested a minor modification on page # 2.

[July 1, 2009 - 1] A motion to approve the minutes of June 3, with the edits suggested by Peter Myo Khin, was offered. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **Director's Report – Joy Nurmi**

Distributed the current ECCAB members contact information for review and updates.

**Bills 21-09 & 20-09** - On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Council's Management and Fiscal Policy Committee held a work session on Bills 21-09, Boards, Committees and Commissions – Amendments, and 20-09, Boards, Committees and Commissions – Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) recommendations. The Committee took straw vote (3-0) not to support the bills. The Committee will meet again in the fall to review issues related to the Agricultural Committee. A copy of the Committee packet is available at:  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/2009/090629/20090629\\_MFP02-05.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/2009/090629/20090629_MFP02-05.pdf)

The County Executive supported the goal of reviewing the functions of the County's boards, committees and commissions for potential efficiencies, and he requested feedback from key stakeholders. That feedback did not indicate that there would be significant efficiencies or cost savings. Therefore, he does not support Bill 20-09 or 21-09 at this time.

**Burtonsville Business District** – The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center is taking the new director of the Department of Economic Development (DED), Steve Silverman, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Director of the Department of Transportation on a tour of the Burtonsville Business area on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Councilmember Nancy Navarro's staff will also be present. The purpose is to get an update on Burtonsville Legacy Plan, learn the views of Mr. Silverman as well as bring current issues to his attention. We are looking forward to working with DED on the revitalization of Burtonsville.

**East County National Night Out** - The National Nite Out will be on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The Center is currently playing a leading role in the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out, in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Police, Praisner Recreation Center, Praisner Library and local apartment communities. This creates the opportunity for the Center to mobilize the community to come together in taking a stand against crime.

**Fairland Park** - The proposed acquisition of Fairland Park is scheduled to go to the Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and to the full Council for action on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fairland Road Improvements** – The improvements promised to the community following the tragic pedestrian fatality are just about complete, with traffic signals installed at Serpentine road and Tamarack lane. Bus stops have relocated to better align pedestrian traffic with the newly installed signals. We plan on meeting with the Fairland Road community in early September to see how well the improvements are working.

### **Chair's Report – Bill Strassberger**

1. Called upon Dwayne Parris to share the good news with the Board.

**Dwayne Parris** – His 13 year-old daughter's participated in the 14-15 year-old age group , level 10 last week in the National Championship Trampoline competition in San Jose, CA. This is one level below Olympic level. She received a silver medal and she qualifies for participation in September 2009 at Las Vegas competition. If she receives a silver/gold medal in Las Vegas at level 10, she will represent United States at the World Trampoline Championship being held in Russia in November 2009. Members applauded and congratulated Mr. Parris.

2. Called on former board member, Colleen Ionata.

**Colleen Ionata** was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation issued by the County Executive and a farewell gift by the Board and Center. She thanked the board for this gesture and looks forward to attending the future board meetings.

3. The three Board actions emailed last week will be discussed. Chair Strassberger asked Board members to check their emails on the first Monday of the month for any updates/announcements before Wednesday's Board meeting.

### **Anticipated Board Actions**

4. The CIP Forum held on June 10<sup>th</sup> had a good turnout with a Q&A session. The Board will review the ECCAB CIP submission to the County Executive.

5. The Board will review a letter of support for the purchase of approx. 52 acres of unimproved land from Fairland Development, LLC for an addition to the Fairland Recreational Park.

6. The Board will review and consider taking a position regarding a zoning text amendment, ZTA 09-05, which was introduced on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the County Council. This relates in part to the EZ storage, a proposed self-storage facility in the Burtonsville Industrial Park. Stuart Rochester will be on hand to present and answer questions.

7. New Business– the Board will discuss partnership with the US Census Bureau. The Board will also nominate a member to serve as a liaison to the US Census Bureau.

### **Council's Report:**

Chair Strassberger introduced and welcomed Council member Nancy Navarro's new staff members, Dolly Kildee and Alexis Reed.

### **Dolly Kildee, Councilmember Nancy Navarro**

Plans to attend all ECCAB meetings. She indicated that Councilmember Nancy Navarro is interested in the concerns of the community.

### **Alexis Reed, Councilmember Nancy Navarro**

They have been calling people in the community to learn about their concerns and issues. Councilmember Navarro wants to hear your opinions. She confirmed Councilmember Nancy Navarro's attendance at the September board meeting.

### **Claire Iseli, Councilmember Marc Elrich**

Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed Zoning Text Amendment on Home Occupations and Residential Off-street Parking. Many issues were raised. Council will reconvene on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The Council will tackle these issues in work sessions on the ZTA. Consumer Complaints - received neighborhood complaints about cars not tagged and parked in the yards. Ambulance Transportation EMS Fee came up at the Council, but it is not happening at this time. Ms. Iseli gave an update on the growth policy. The Council will take it up in the fall. A discussion followed with board members.

**John Fausti** - inquired if the master plans are online?

**Claire Iseli** – referred him to the Park and Planning website at: [www.mnppc-mc.org](http://www.mnppc-mc.org). Click on the link for Planning Department/Master Plans.

### **Committee Reports –**

#### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee:**

No meeting was held due to CIP forum.

#### **Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair**

The committee could not meet due to CIP forum.

#### **Outreach Committee: Allan Mulligan**

The committee could not meet due to CIP forum. It was a productive year.

**Peter Myo Khin** – wanted to know the procedure to serve on a sub-committee. He was instructed to simply request membership from each of the respective chairs.

**Chair Strassberger** – The committees are formed every year in September. However, a decision can be made this evening.

**Chair Strassberger**- The Board selected at the last meeting, Kim Bobola as the Fire Site selection committee representative and David Kochanski as the ECRAB representative. Asked them to share any reports/updates.

**Kim Bobola** – no report

**David Kochanski** – two Public Forums were held. He attended the ECRAB Public Forum held in Silver Spring. The discussion focused on today's economy and the overlap of Parks Department and Recreation Department programs and facilities. There was a discussion on how the programs are working as well as public's comments. The question that arose was whether some programs in each department should be consolidated under different leadership or combined. Parks fall under the authority of the Maryland National Park and Planning Department whereas Montgomery County Department of Recreation does not own parks but operates many programs, some which are held in parks. The committee was looking at four different areas: (a) *Public Relations and Marketing*; (b) *Technology Request and Payments*; (c) *Program and Pricing* and (d) *Use of facilities*. The goal is to cut duplicate programs, streamline funding. The community offered lots of input.

**Chair Strassberger** –asked members to take the time and sign up for Sub Committees.

#### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee**

Chair – Tom Aylward meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

#### **Services Committee**

Chair Anthony Ramirez meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

#### **Outreach Committee**

Chair Marva Deskins, Esq. meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

The members were given ten minutes to interact with each other and share their interest on which committee they were interested to serve.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Handles issues relating to transportation, economic development, housing, environment, taxation, capital improvements, budget, property and zoning and monitors implementation of Master Plans in East County

#### ***Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 pm***

Tom Aylward (Chair) .....	<a href="mailto:taylward@jacksonshaw.com">taylward@jacksonshaw.com</a>
G. Stanley Doore .....	<a href="mailto:stan.doore@verizon.net">stan.doore@verizon.net</a>
John Fausti, Esq. ....	<a href="mailto:jfausti@faustilaw.com">jfausti@faustilaw.com</a>
Eric Luedtke .....	<a href="mailto:ericluedtke@yahoo.com">ericluedtke@yahoo.com</a>
David M. Kochanski, Esq. ....	<a href="mailto:dkochanski@srgpe.com">dkochanski@srgpe.com</a>
Peter Myo Khin .....	<a href="mailto:pmyokhin@verizon.net">pmyokhin@verizon.net</a>

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Handles issues related to networking, lobbying, communications and publicity. Plans special events, forums and other outreach efforts to the larger community on behalf of the Advisory Board

### ***Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 pm***

Marva Deskins, Esq. .... [mrdeskins@aol.com](mailto:mrdeskins@aol.com)  
Vanessa Ali ..... [vanessaali@aol.com](mailto:vanessaali@aol.com)  
Allan Mulligan ..... [amulligan1007@hotmail.com](mailto:amulligan1007@hotmail.com)  
Alfredda H. Payne, Ph.D. .... [ptpprograms@aol.com](mailto:ptpprograms@aol.com)  
Benoy Thomas ..... [benoythomas@gmail.com](mailto:benoythomas@gmail.com)  
Amjad Chaudhry, DVM..... [amjadcm2000@yahoo.com](mailto:amjadcm2000@yahoo.com)

## **SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Handles issues related to education, aging, health, human services, public safety and recreation.

### ***Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 pm***

Anthony Ramirez (Chair) ..... [vivatonio@hotmail.com](mailto:vivatonio@hotmail.com)  
Dwayne Parris ..... [dwayne.parris@gsa.gov](mailto:dwayne.parris@gsa.gov)  
Kim Bobola, Ph.D. .... [kbobola@gmail.com](mailto:kbobola@gmail.com)  
[kbobola@msde.state.md.us](mailto:kbobola@msde.state.md.us)

*Bill Strassberger, Chair, ECCAB and Joy Nurmi, Director, EMRSC will oversee the committees and their functioning.*

**Old Business** : None

### **New Business**

**Chair Strassberger** – Three action items need consideration by the ECCAB.

1. The Chair presented a draft letter to council President Phil Andrews, outlining ECCAB's support of the purchase of property near Fairland Park for the member's consideration.

**[July 1, 2009 - 2]** A motion was made and seconded to approve and transmit the letter on Fairland Park to Council President Phil Andrews. Discussion followed:

**Dolly Kildee** – mentioned that Councilmember Nancy Navarro's high priority is environmental mitigation during the ICC construction. Fairland Park would be a good conservation area. The County needs to take advantage of this opportunity. The PHED Committee will address the issue and will make recommendations to the Council. She asked members to call Council members Mike Knapp (Chair), Marc Elrich and Nancy Floreen tomorrow, July 2<sup>nd</sup> before 9:30 a.m. at 240-777-7907 to express their support.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Chair Strassberger**–The letter will be faxed in the morning to Council members.

## 2. CIP Letter Recommendations to the County Executive.

**Stan Doore** – Suggested the Board to include in the CIP letter a comment on the housing next to 3<sup>rd</sup> District Police station and the Stewart lane overpass include a bicycle and a pedestrian lane.

**Joy Nurmi** – clarified that this housing proposal will not be in the CIP. Suggested that at some point the Board can write a letter asking the State to consider including a Pedestrian pathway.

**Peter Myo Khin** –disagreed with the position taken on the Burtonsville Access Road as mentioned in the draft CIP Forum letter. Shared his opinion that, the Burtonsville Access road is a project and we should endorse since it provides circulation in this small area.

Chair Strassberger asked Chuck Crisostomo to clarify.

**Chuck Crisostomo**- shared the background. Before the legacy plan was begun studies were done. The DHCA had taken a look at the loop road and it did not look like a plan that would sync with anything else being proposed. As the Burtonsville Shopping Center Plans have evolved, it now appears that the Access Road would work well. The Burtonsville Legacy Plan planners will now take a relook at the area. Tomorrow we will take a tour of Burtonsville looking at the four sectors that the Fairland Master Plan has laid out. The loop road is an integral part and the Burtonsville Legacy Plan had endorsed it. Chuck agreed with Peter My Khin's suggestion and comments that we should endorse the access road in the CIP letter.

**[July 1, 2009 - 3]** A motion to approve the CIP letter, as amended by Peter Myo Khin, was offered. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Chair Strassberger** – Opened a discussion on the ECCAB position regarding a zoning text amendment, ZTA 09-05.

**Joy Nurmi** – Stuart Rochester testified before the Planning Board. Asked Claire Iseli and Dolly Kildee if they would like to comment

**Dolly Kildee** –The Developer submitted the project as a Public Facility Storage Park and the Planning Board denied their request. The developer then appealed the decision and the court agreed with the developer and overturned the MNCPPC denial. Councilmember Nancy Navarro introduced the bill last week to clarify the zoning code which she feels was misinterpreted by the court. A public hearing is scheduled on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and it would be good if the Board could present testimony.

To sign up contact 240-777-7931.

**Claire Iseli** – Shared her comments that ZTA 09-05 will not have any effect the existing storage facility in Burtonsville.

**Joy Nurmi** – the bill was introduced on June 19<sup>th</sup> and a Public Hearing is set for July 28<sup>th</sup>. It will come back for full Council vote in September. The Committee will review and develop a position. The Board can support the letter at September meeting. Because of the approval time lines, ECCAB will need to act quickly in order for its position to be considered.

## **Chair Strassberger-**

**[July 1, 2009 - 4]** A motion was made to send a letter of support regarding the issue on Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 09-05 Burtonsville Overlay Zone – Allowed Uses. It was referred to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee. The motion was seconded and passed. The Economic Development Committee was tasked with developing the letter.

**Chair Strassberger** – The US Census Bureau needs ECCAB’s support; asked to sign a partnership agreement and Chair Strassberger needs to ensure that the Board agrees. The Center has signed the partnership agreement. Chair Strassberger read the points mentioned on the agreement and asked if any member could serve as a liaison to the US Census Bureau.

**Vanessa Ali** – volunteered to serve as a liaison on US Census Bureau.

**Amjad Chaudhary** – volunteered as the second liaison on US Census Bureau.

## **Announcements:**

**Vanessa Ali** – announced her recent appointment as President of the Montgomery County Chapter of National Organization for Women. It is the first time an African American woman has been elected. The Board applauded and congratulated Ms. Ali.

**Stan Doore**- Spoke on the topic of laptops in schools for every child. He would like the Services Committee to address this issue. He discussed on the topic of Global Warming. He also shared a copy of the Calverton Current newsletter– June and July editions.

**Chair Strassberger** – reminded the Board members regarding their attendance requirement at the monthly meetings. Wished the members a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**[July 1, 2009 - 5]** A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved with no objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. **The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.**